



The President's Daily Brief

24 November 1969

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Libya [redacted] signed an agreement with France under which it will receive various kinds of military equipment and training. (Page 1)

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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After lengthy negotiations, Venezuela and the Soviet Union seem close to a resumption of diplomatic relations. (Page 4)

[redacted]

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LIBYA

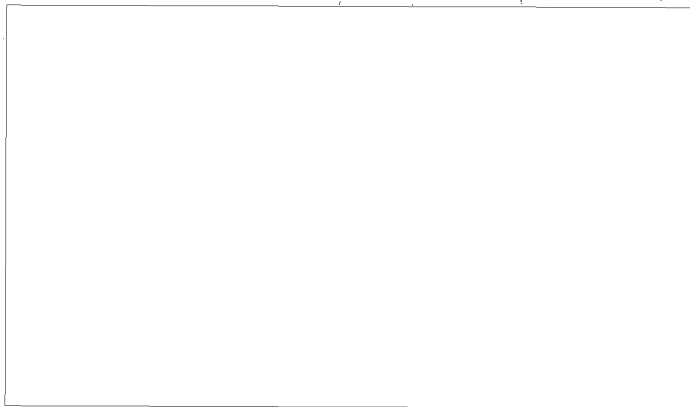
[redacted] Libya has signed an arms agreement with France. The agreement, signed in Paris on 15 November, calls for the provision of French aircraft, missiles, tanks, and radar equipment. Libyan pilots are to be trained in France, and French technicians will be sent to Libya. The agreement also contains a vague French offer of "military support" should Libya be attacked by its neighbors.

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At the same time, [redacted] Libya recently asked Bonn to broaden its training program for Libyan military personnel. West Germany is agreeable in principle, but it has not yet decided how much to increase its program.

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In Libya itself, rumors of antiregime activity are multiplying. The dissatisfaction is not directed against the new revolutionary state so much as it is against the inexperienced Revolutionary Command Council, which is said to be losing the support of labor, students, and parts of the army.

(continued)

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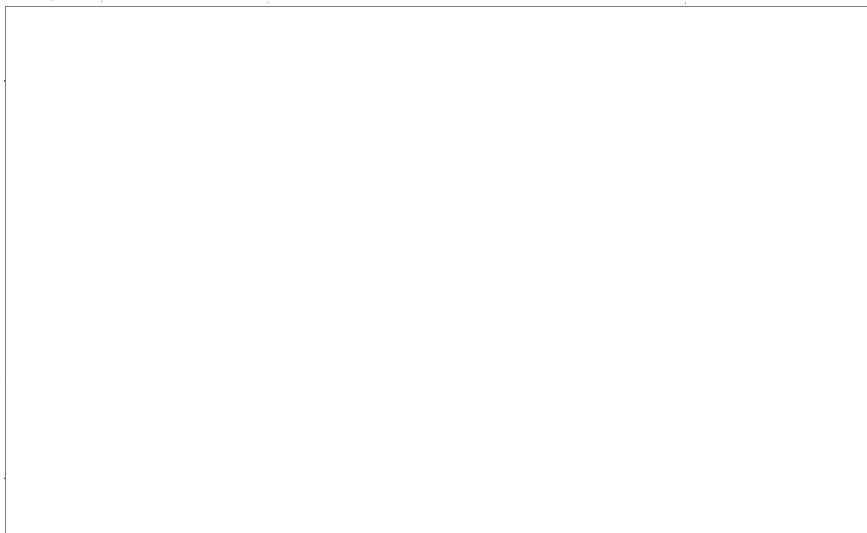
Most of the uneasiness seems still to be centered in the eastern province of Cyrenaica, formerly the main source of tribal support for the former regime of King Idris. Trouble may be spreading to the Tripoli area, however, where there are now reports of dissension within the army and some assassinations of army personnel.

Even were the present military regime to be overthrown or reorganized, it seems highly unlikely that the ancien regime under the old king could ever be restored.

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CAMBODIA



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VENEZUELA-USSR

Diplomatic relations between Venezuela and the USSR, broken shortly after World War II, will be resumed in January, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets will open an embassy in Caracas staffed by 30 people, and that funds for an embassy in Moscow have been requested in Venezuela's 1970 budget. In addition, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Calvani and his chief of protocol plan to visit Moscow in December to complete the arrangements.

Negotiating the deal has taken almost a year, with both sides moving slowly because the incentive is not especially great. The benefits will be mostly economic--some new markets for Venezuelan agricultural and mineral exports and a new outlet for Soviet manufactured goods--but the experience of the other Latin American nations that have taken this step indicates the expansion of trade will be neither great nor rapid.

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NOTES

Philippines:

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Bolivia: In an effort to placate the unemployed oil workers of Santa Cruz, President Ovando pulled out all the emotional stops in a speech last week denouncing Gulf Oil. He claimed Gulf is "waging war" against Bolivia, and exhorted his listeners to bear their economic deprivation bravely for the good of the country. Ovando promised that Bolivia will soon have new markets for its oil, although he cited no specific buyer, and added that the gas pipeline to Argentina would be completed and would help replace lost revenues.

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